

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsphome.htm>

Date: October 1, 2002
For: Immediate Release
Contact: CVEO 3 Cliff Rogers
(360) 753-0289

Operation Air Brake, 2002

During the month of September, the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) participated in Operation Air Brake, 2002. Throughout the United States and Canada, participating jurisdictions conducted roadside inspections of brakes on trucks and buses.

In September 2002, 12, 875 units were inspected by 46 jurisdictions. In September 2001, 11,390 were inspected by 41 jurisdictions. This year, the percentage of units placed out of service for brake adjustment violations was 10.8 percent, compared to 13.3 percent for 2001. This year, 15.8 percent of units inspected were placed out of service for brake-related defects, compared to 17.8 percent for 2001.

The out-of-service rate is declining. A contributing factor for this, excluding enforcement, could be the participation and ongoing education of the Drivers and Maintenance personnel in making sure that the brakes are in proper working order. They are an important factor in reducing brake-related crashes. Operation Air Brake encourages drivers and motor carriers to increase their knowledge of brake inspection and maintenance, regulatory compliance, and vehicle brake performance. CVD has inspected 66,094 trucks as of July 2002—that's a 55 percent increase over last year.

"The work of the men and women of CVD is making our state's highways safer for our families to travel on," stated Chief Serpas.

###